

What is Claimed Is:

1. An artificial airway device comprising:
an air conduit extending between a proximal opening and a mask opening wherein, when the device is in an operative position, the proximal opening remains outside of a patient and the mask opening is open to a laryngeal opening of the patient; and
a seating tip extending distally from the distal end of the airway tube which, when the device is in the operative position, is located on a pharyngeal side of a patient's cricoid.
2. The artificial airway device of claim 1, further comprising a first supporting arm extends axially from the seating tip in a shape substantially corresponding to that of a portion of the esophagus in which the seating tip is located when the device is in the operative position.
3. The artificial airway device of claim 2, further comprising a compressible structure mounted around the seating tip so that, when the device is in the operative position, the compressible structure conforms to and substantially fills the portion of the esophagus in which it is received.
4. The artificial airway device of claim 3, wherein a proximal portion of the compressible structure extends axially from the seating tip a distance less than an axial extent of a proximal portion of the first supporting arm.

5. The artificial airway device of claim 4, wherein a distal portion of the compressible structure extends axially from the seating tip a distance greater than an axial extent of a distal portion of the first supporting arm.

6. The artificial airway device of claim 2, further comprising a second supporting arm extending axially from the seating tip.

7. The artificial airway device of claim 6, wherein the seating tip is located substantially centrally between ends of the first and second supporting arms.

8. The artificial airway device of claim 7, further comprising a compressible structure mounted around the seating tip so that, when the device is in the operative position, the compressible structure conforms to and substantially fills the portion of the esophagus in which it is received, wherein a proximal portion of the compressible structure extends axially from the seating tip a distance less than an axial extent of proximal portions of the first and second supporting arms.

9. The artificial airway device of claim 8, wherein a distal portion of the compressible structure extends axially from the seating tip a distance greater than an axial extent of distal portions of the first and second supporting arms.

10. The artificial airway device of claim 9, wherein the compressible structure includes a plurality of

flexible fins.

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11. The artificial airway device of claim 1, further comprising at least one bar extending within the mask opening.

12. The artificial airway device of claim 11, wherein the at least one bar comprises a plurality of bars separated from one another to form at least one channel in the mask opening.

13. The artificial airway device of claim 12, wherein the at least one channel fluidly communicates with the air conduit.

14. The artificial airway device of claim 12, wherein the at least one bar extends in a substantially distal to proximal direction.

15. The artificial airway device of claim 12, wherein the at least one bar extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to a distal to proximal direction.

16. The artificial airway device of claim 11, further comprising an tube directing surface extending within the mask opening, the tube directing surface being oriented so that, when the device is in the operative position, a plane of the tube directing surface extends to the laryngeal opening of the patient so that a tube inserted through the airway conduit to the tube directing surface is aimed by the tube directing surface into the laryngeal opening.

17. The artificial airway device of claim 16, wherein the tube directing surface is radiused with the plane being tangent to a distal end of the tube directing surface.

18. The artificial airway device of claim 17, wherein a proximal end of the tube directing surface is substantially parallel to an axis of the air conduit.

Sub A3 } 19. The artificial airway device of claim 1, further comprising an angled surface extending within the mask opening, wherein the angled surface is oriented so that, when the device is in the operative position, a plane in which the angled surface resides extends to the laryngeal opening of the patient.

Sub B3 } 20. The artificial airway device of claim 16, wherein (the angled surface) is formed by a portion of the at least one bar.

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